



JOHN S. ANDERSON, M.D.  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STATE DOCUMENTS

SEP 11 1973

State of Montana  
State Department of Health  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

HELENA, MONTANA

September 4, 1973

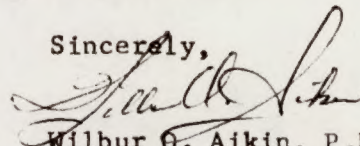
Mr. D.K. Marquardt, P.E., 809 1st Ave. East, Kalispell, MT 59901  
Mr. Fletcher Newby, Montana Environmental Quality Council, Helena, MT 59601  
Board of County Commissioners, Flathead County Courthouse, Kalispell, MT 59901  
Montana Fish & Game Department, Helena, MT 59601  
Flathead Area-Wide Planning Organization, 3 Ford Building, Kalispell, MT 59901  
B.C. McIntyre, M.D., County Health Officer, Box 427, Whitefish, MT 59937  
Les Espeland, R.S., Flathead County Sanitarian, Box 919, Kalispell, MT 59901  
Water Quality Bureau, State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences,  
Helena, MT 59601  
Montana State Department of Intergovernmental Relations, Division of Planning  
and Economic Development, Helena, MT 59601  
Mr. Ben Wake, Environmental Sciences Division, Helena, MT 59601  
Montana State Library, 930 E. Lyndale Ave., Helena, MT 59601  
Montana State Highway Commission, Kalispell, MT 59901  
Mr. L. Peterson, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 567, Kalispell,  
MT 59901  
Mr. Wayne Herman, President, Flathead Wildlife Inc., P.O. Box 4, Kalispell, MT

Gentlemen:

The enclosed draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for the  
SMITH LAKE VISTA SUBDIVISION near Kila in Flathead County, Montana.

Under Montana law, a person or agency has thirty days to submit comments  
and/or supply new supplementary information. An additional fifteen days  
may be granted upon specific request to an individual or agency. Comments  
received in response to this draft statement will be summarized and in-  
cluded in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,



Wilbur G. Aikin, P.E.  
Public Health Engineer  
Environmental Sciences Division

WOA/kmh  
Enclosure

3 0864 1006 6804 8



DRAFT

Environmental Impact Statement

for

SMITH LAKE VISTA

Flathead County, Montana

Pursuant to the Montana Environmental Policy Act, Section 69-6504 (b)(3); the act controlling both public and private water supply and sewage disposal for subdivision, Section 69-5001 to 5005; and the act to control water pollution, Section 69-4801 to 4827, the following statement is prepared by the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Environmental Sciences Division, concerning the proposed Smith Lake Vista Subdivision located near Kila in Flathead County, Montana, for which a request has been received requesting certified subdivision approval.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The subdivision described in this statement consists of thirteen (13) contiguous lots at a lakeshore location twelve road miles southwest of Kalispell, Montana. Kila, a small rambling road-side community along U.S. Highway 2, is two miles distant and Smith Lake, a shallow 1000 acre lake in the Ashley Creek drainage lies close in along the west side of the proposed plat. Except for two large 7.8 parcels in the northeast corner, all lots are approximately five acres in size.

Geographically, the site is in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9, T.27N., R.22W., MPM. Total area is 72.5 acres.

ROADS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Viewed as a single entity, the subdivision block is roughly rectangular with access roads completely bounding it on the east, south and west. Two of these "boundary roads" are well established pre-existing county roads,<sup>1</sup> the use of which has allowed an irregular subdivision design to be used which should lessen potential visual impact from this project. Two new roads are required by this design, both of which are to be short contour following stub-roads routed off the south side.

Of particular significance is the fact that no new stream crossings are required by this design although there is no assurance whatever that individual lot holders might not themselves disturb the drainage pattern in the utilization of their property.

The topography is best described as a series of nearly flat benches with connecting grades of 10-20%. These benches vary in width and slope and each lot does offer

1. The Smith Lake Road and Paulins Kila Ski Road.







several acceptable building sites. The overall slope taken from the topographic data ranges from 7 to 10% and except for local drop-offs along the small included stream no part of the area could be described as precipitous.

The application from the subdivision owners included the statement that the general design was accomplished after a great deal of coordinated study involving combinations of size and road location, natural features and homesites. Natural benches on the property made homesite location obvious and natural features such as ridges and the creek were utilized in a manner calculated to lessen potential problems.

After viewing the property in the field it should be conceded that this appears to be a true and accurate statement.

#### SURFACE WATER - GROUND WATER

There are two significant surface water environments that could be affected by the approval of this proposal; Smith Lake and a small intermittent creek which runs diagonally across the property from spring seeps on the higher southeastern end. Smith Lake is a shallow eutrophic lake in which littoral vegetation is abundant and warm water fishes are plentiful. The lake is extremely productive and during the summer months plankton populations thrive and algal blooms become common. There is an abundance of all types of marsh birds and waterfowl in the area including ducks and herons. It has also been reported that this area is a very favorable nesting ground for many of these species.

Because this is such a productive ecosystem, the United States Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife is now in the process of purchasing shoreline and adjacent wetlands in an effort to preserve and protect the site. Smith Lake Vista is, in fact, separated from the lake by a narrow 250 to 500 ft. band of shoreline which is now being conveyed from the present owner to the United States government. This narrow band even now includes part of the Kila Fishing Access, a recreation site which receives heavy useage summer and winter.

The small stream which traverses the subdivision exhibits very little volume during most of the year. However it is well entrenched in its own water course and during most of the year it sinks and emerges irregularly along the stream bed as it drops down slope to eventually discharge into Smith Lake. Aquatic life is obviously limited, yet is a primary water-related topographic factor, and it is recognized that its flow must be treated with the same regard as if it were a larger more active stream.

It would be difficult to find a site anyplace in the area that would violate the state ground water spacing requirements. If disposal systems are properly constructed and inspected by the county, direct contamination of either surface or ground water is not reasonably possible.

#### SOILS

Soils are typical of the "mountain" assemblages found on foothills terrain flanking the Flathead Valley. Clayey-silty loams - irregular glacial tills interbedded with poorly sorted lake deposits - predominant throughout the subsurface. Random boulders in a full range of size and concentration are a bit of a nuisance from a construction standpoint, however massive bedrock occurrences are unknown and unlikely.



The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.

The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.

After reviewing the property in the State it should be concluded that this property is a good and suitable investment.

### STATE WATER - INDIAN LAKE

The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.

The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.

The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.

The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.

### STATE

The following information was obtained from the records of the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, regarding the water quality of Lake Michigan during the period 1967 to 1970. The data included the results of the water quality monitoring program conducted by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries, during the period 1967 to 1970.



This soil is entirely useful for purposes of individual waste disposal systems, provided they are utilized only on flatter surfaces. THIRTEEN PERCOLATION tests were conducted and a field range of 16 to 20 minutes per inch is documented. This rate will require that drainfields be designed on a septic tank effluent application dosage of 1 gallon per square foot of absorption field. Such a rate requires large absorption drainfields, however with lots in the 5 acre range this should not prove troublesome.

#### PRIOR USE AND PRESENT STATUS

Nearly all of the subdivision is located in a coniferous forest with douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and western larch being predominant species. Approximately 12 acres has been cleared for grazing along Smith Lake road but the remainder is wooded. The northeastern corner has recently been logged and previous operations on this property have thinned out the remaining trees. As a result of this thinning, there is a considerable amount of undergrowth in the area. Whatever impact this area has received to this point is related directly to this rather recent logging operation. Locally the results of this disruption is highly visible.

Wildlife is abundant in the subdivision because of the existing habitat. Deer are frequently seen but most of the wildlife is small; grouse and pheasant are common during much of the year.

Part of the project is already a de facto subdivision. At least one lot was platted prior to July 1, 1973. This lot is on file with the County Clerk and Recorder and is now occupied by the owner. The septic system for this first homesite (a mobile home) was given a permit and inspection was made by the Flathead County Health Department according to county standard.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FACILITY REVIEW

Sewage: Sanitary sewage is to be disposed of by means of individual septic tank and drainfield systems. This has been previously decided as an acceptable and feasible concept. The rational governing this acceptance was outlined in the section on Soil and Topography.

Water Supply: Water is to be provided by a community system. A well has been drilled very recently to a depth of 100 ft. with a yield of 20 to 25 gallons per minute. This can be recognized as an adequate source. Plans and specifications for this system have not yet been submitted, however this commitment will be made before a recommendation for approval can be made for this subdivision.

Solid Waste: A so-called "green box" disposal site is available three miles to the south, along Highway 2 toward Kalispell. The convenience and position of this disposal location makes it likely that solid waste could be disposed of at this site.

Electric Power & Telephone: Service lines for both telephone and electric service are already in existence on this property and have been for many years.







#### OWNERSHIP

The ground east of this subdivision is in U.S. ownership and the lake frontage is programmed for U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife control. Ground flanking the block on the north and south is privately owned by individuals other than the developers of Smith Lake Vista. Plans for this ground are unknown.

#### ALTERNATIVES

Because the data submitted with the preliminary plans appears to meet the concept criteria required by (Regulation) MAC16-2.14(10)-S14340, there is but one option open to the Department of Health and that is for approval. This action is contingent only on the fact that these plans are not yet complete in detail.

The Final Statement and the approval document will not be issued until those details are complete and written concurrence is received by the Flathead County Health Office. It should be noted that the Flathead County Areawide Planning Organization has accepted and approved the preliminary plat application for this subdivision as outlined in this preliminary Environmental Impact Statement.

#### IMPACT

Physical, natural and cultural impacts resulting from completion of this subdivision will undoubtedly arise. Their magnitude is purely speculation, however none seem to suggest any over-riding degree of severity, provided this development does not signal the start of further frantic activity on whatever private lands remain nearby the lake.

A maximum of 13 families could establish residence and the increase in services would be based on their needs. Very little in road maintenance is contemplated because of their pre-existing status. Fire calls will be handled by the Smith Valley Fire District thereby increasing the scope of their activity. Effect on the Kila grammar school would be significant but the additional load should be gradual and manageable. Air pollution resulting from dust on the Smith Lake road was contentious long before the project was proposed. Heavier traffic probably will magnify this problem.

#### ADVERSE IMPACT

The most interesting land use question inherent in the development is one relating to the use of Smith Lake as a federal Waterfowl Refuge. This office is not familiar with the aims or objectives of this project, hence, any adverse observations on this matter must remain open pending possible comment by the proper authorities.

#### SHORT TERM - LONG TERM COMPARISONS AND THE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Long term worth is represented best by the intangible value inherent in leaving the land as is, for wildlife habitat plus the more concrete management concept of using the area for tree farming. These values are not totally incompatible with management suggested by subdivision at the large five acre lot density level. Comparisons from that perspective become very nebulous.







Nor does the scope of this project suggest any significant commitment of resources. More intensive land use is obvious, and because the property is without covenants or restrictions this use may eventually take a rather disruptive form. However the present project, as represented in the existing application, is neither irreversible or irretrievable although it does break the land into a multiplicity of ownerships which are probably irrevokable.

STATEMENT SOURCES

This statement was prepared by Wilbur O. Aikin, B.S.G.E., Montana Tech., a registered professional engineer and economic geologist with 22 years of experience in a variety of engineering, exploration production supervisory and now regulatory positions.

Data used in the preparation of this statement was accrued from information submitted to this office by Eric Teittinen, a sanitary engineer in the employ of the Marquardt Engineering Firm of Kalispell. Some of the included comments were extracted directly from the Montana Regulatory Form E.S.91 which accompanied the platted application. An on-site field inspection was made prior to completion of this statement.







